



Life-Shaping Relationships

Hebrews 10:24, 25

Reality: Almost everyone has one very encouraging friend—someone whom they experience as positive, helpful, affirming, and enjoyable.

Question: How do people experience me?

Question: How should people experience me?

Question: What must I do in order to improve my relationship style?

A Definition: Life-shaping relationships include connection, compassion, authenticity, encouragement, and challenge so that we are “shaped” to look more like Jesus.

Proverbs 27:17. “Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.”

#1 Life-shaping relationships involve intentionally *engaging* one another.

- Barnabas:
- Jesus:
- Us:

#2 Life-shaping relationships involve intentionally *encouraging* one another.

- Barnabas:
- Jesus:
- Us:

#3 Life-shaping relationships involve intentionally *challenging* one another.

- Barnabas:
- Jesus:
- Us:

The Truth: Life-shaping relationships involve intentionally...engaging, encouraging, and challenging one another.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

A Definition: Life-shaping relationships include connection, compassion, authenticity, encouragement, and challenge so that we are “shaped” to look more like Jesus.

Proverbs 27:17. “Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.”

The Truth: Life-shaping relationships involve intentionally...engaging, encouraging, and challenging one another.

- **Today:** Please read Proverbs 27:17 above. What is the nature of the *process* that is described in this verse? What is the nature of the *product* that results from this process?
- **Monday:** Please read Acts 9: 19b-31. Barnabas “*took hold of*” Saul and introduced him to the apostles and launched him on his ministry career. As used in this context the word “take hold of” means “drawing someone to oneself in order to help, take hold of, and be concerned with.” It is the same word used in Hebrews 2:16 when it describes Jesus “taking hold of” or “giving help to” the descendants of Abraham. What are the applications of this verb or action for your life and relationships?
- **Tuesday:** Please read Acts 9: 19b-31. How did Barnabas *encourage* Paul in this situation? What are the applications of this action for your life and relationships?
- **Wednesday:** Please read Acts 15:36-41. How did Barnabas *challenge* Paul in this situation? What are the applications of this verb or action for your life and relationships?
- **Thursday:** Please read Colossians 4:10 and 2 Timothy 4:11. What has changed in Paul’s opinion of John Mark? What do you think are the factors in that life-shaping transformation in Paul?
- **Friday:** Please read Proverbs 27:17 above. How does this verse apply to the relationship between Barnabas and Paul and John Mark as outlined in “Monday through Thursday” above? What is the *process* of the interaction between these two men and what is the *result* in their lives?
- **Saturday:** In your life and network of relationships ask God for the person whom you need to engage, encourage, and challenge right now.